

COMMISSION on AGING

MINUTES of MAY 11, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2015), Martina Wharton (2018), Bettejane Karnes (2015), Nancy Trawick Smith (2017), Don Nolan (2017), Bev Hall Korba (2017), Laurie McMorrow (2017), Steve Kegler (2015)

STAFF: Pat Schneider, Human Services Director
Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor.

Mansfield Senior Center Association: Jean Ann Kenny, President.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Bigl, Maureen Kirouac, Jennifer Hoskins

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Judy Bigl, Jensen's, Mollie Kirouac, Gen Ridge. Representatives still needed for Wright's Way and Juniper Hill.

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 am

Minutes of April 13, 2015 were accepted with corrections.

PAT SCHNEIDER'S REPORT: Pat was pleased to report that Sarah Taylor has accepted the position as Senior Center Administrator. Positions for an outreach social worker and a program coordinator are still open.

The following updates are needed throughout the senior center.

Replacement tables are needed that will accommodate smaller groups. Ideally small round tables will be considered.

Dining room floor needs to be replaced with a quality grade of flooring that will be easier to maintain.

Commercial grade chairs need to replace present ones.

The wood siding on outside of building is rotting in places and because it is too costly to replace existing siding will be repaired.

Furniture in dining area needs to be portable.

Residents were surveyed regarding ideas for new décor.

Pat stated the first accreditation and information meeting was held and she is actively recruiting those who would be interested in being on committees. Her goal is to find a broad spectrum of applicants.

SARAH TAYLOR'S REPORT: Sarah is reviewing all upcoming projects. The date for a shutdown of the center for cleaning is uncertain at this time. The volunteer reception was well attended.

The summer program plans are to open one time per month (second Thursday) and will include entertainment.

The AARP CAR FIT program did not generate a lot of interest therefore on June 5th there will be one on one appointments for those already signed up. It will be closed to future applicants.

Center now has two part-time drivers and has been scheduling 2 to 3 trips per week that are well attended. The van holds 10 passengers and the Community Center van is available if scheduled ahead of time.

There appears to be more interest in having evening activities.

JEAN ANN KENNY'S REPORT: The job descriptions of the Mansfield Association Executive Board are being reviewed.

It was decided to start ordering supplies for the center from WB Mason and Mansfield Paper Supply.

SENIOR CENTER FISABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Bettejane Karnes reported that committee members visited the Enfield and South Windsor facilities. They were very impressed with the space available for all activities at the Enfield Center. The South Windsor Center shares their facility with local teenagers. Enfield stores medical equipment which has been a problem for our center due mainly because of lack of storage space. There was also the concern for liability. A discussion followed regarding the possibility that each community advertise the availability of used medical equipment in their own newsletters. Bettejane stated she was disappointed that no one answered her request for new members on her committee. The committee will be visiting Wallingford and Newington Centers next week.

OLD BUSINESS: Committee members agreed that it has taken the town a long time to install the new bus shelter on Rt. 275. It is much smaller than expected but it should accommodate a wheel chair along with one seat.

Emergency Preparedness booklet was reviewed and when completed with corrections will be given to each community for distribution. Steve suggested putting it as a link to the Mansfield Website.

Members will send a letter of appreciation to the committee at Jensen's that put so much work into developing the Emergency Preparedness booklet.

Steve Kegler strongly urged more presence from the committee members at town council meetings.

Martina Wharton forwarded a complaint from Maureen Healy, a Juniper Hill resident that there are not enough handicapped parking spaces in downtown Storrs. Martina will draft a letter regarding this problem to be sent to the Town Council signed by all COA members.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Next meeting will be held on June 8th, 2015 in the craft room at the Senior Center @ 9:30 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bev Hall Korba, Secretary